



**NORTHCENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET**

Student: **Michael Higley-Vance**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED IN

Follow these procedures: If requested by your instructor, please include an assignment cover sheet. This will become the first page of your assignment. In addition, your assignment header should include your last name, first initial, course code, dash, and assignment number. This should be left justified, with the page number right justified. For example:

DoeJXXX0000-1

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Save a copy of your assignments: You may need to re-submit an assignment at your instructor's request. Make sure you save your files in accessible location.

Academic integrity: All work submitted in each course must be your own original work. This includes all assignments, exams, term papers, and other projects required by your instructor. Knowingly submitting another person's work as your own, without properly citing the source of the work, is considered plagiarism. This will result in an unsatisfactory grade for the work submitted or for the entire course. It may also result in academic dismissal from the University.

EL7008-8

Dr. Linda Collins

Online Learning Communities

**Activity #7: Reflection Assignment &
Essay**

Comments:

Faculty Use Only

Hi, Michael, your activity on differentiated learning and multiple intelligences provide students with a great opportunity to explore and reflect on what they have learning, particularly since these may be unfamiliar or unexplored by the students. In addition, having students interact with each other and reflect on one another's posts provide for deeper learning and discussion. Dr. Collins

Dr. Linda D. Collins	6.9	2.9	May 23, 2014
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Reflection Based Assignment & Essay

Michael Higley

Northcentral University

A Reflective Writing Assignment

“In the News” is an online activity instructors can use to promote reflective learning and feedback. The primary goals of this activity are for the learners to search a variety of news articles from online media outlets, as well as educational journals related to differentiated learning and multiple intelligences. Learners will be evaluated using a rubric on the quality of their research, their postings, and their reflective summaries.

1. Learners will be required to locate at least five different articles, or online resources, that support differentiated learning and multiple intelligences. The articles must have been written or updated within the last five years.
2. Learners will then be required to post a short synopsis of the various articles found, including an APA formatted reference list.
3. Once the article outlines are posted, learners will review the articles and respond to at least three separate learner postings. Learner responses must include supporting information and resources found through their own research. The comments posted must include strategies and ideas for how differentiated learning and understanding multiple intelligences benefit learning processes.
4. After learners have completed their response postings, each learner will write a reflective summary of what they have learned from their research and peer comments. Learners should incorporate the ideas and input provided by their peers; reflecting on how what they have learned from others and the research impacts their understanding of differentiated learning and multiple intelligences.

Rationale: Reflective Writing

Introduction

Learner reflection is an important part of the online learning process and is essential to student learning (Amicucci, 2011; Palloff & Pratt, 2005). Reflective writing is an important component of online learning and helps promote the learning process and facilitation of online learning programs (McKinney & Sen, 2012). Reflection writing requires learners to use critical thinking skills to analyze content and their own learning processes (Cohen-Sayag & Fischl, 2012). It is important that instructors require online learners to consider what they have learned, how they have learned, and how what they have learned impacts their level of understanding and knowledge (Amicucci, 2011; Cohen-Sayag & Fischl, 2012; Green, 2011; Ladyshevsky & Gardner, 2008).

Role of Reflection

Reflection or transformative learning encourages self-efficacy of learning and the learning process (McKinney & Sen, 2012). Learners can be encouraged to participate in the reflective process through assignments such as reflective essay writing and journaling (Cohen-Sayag & Fischl, 2012). According to Greene (2011) encouraging learners to write reflectively develops “metacognition to support authentic reflection” (p. 90). Reflective writing encourages learners to make connections between new information and writing (Ladyshevsky & Gardner, 2008). Additionally, reflective writing is evidence that learners have reflected back on the content, ideas, and skills taught (Amicucci, 2011; Cohen-Sayag & Fischl, 2012). Lastly, the role of reflection in the online environment helps learners understand academic strengths and weaknesses, recognize potential bias or discrimination, and identify possible areas for improvement (Amicucci, 2011; CALT Learning Support, 2007; Cohen-Sayag & Fischl, 2012).

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